

REMARKS

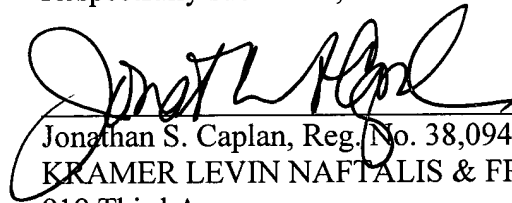
The present application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/663,813, filed September 15, 2000. A request for a three-month extension of time to respond to the office action in the co-pending application is being filed contemporaneously herewith, a copy of which is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 2-27, 47-161 and 163-288. Therefore, claims 1, 28-46 and 162 are presently pending.

No fees are believed to be required in connection with this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with the filing to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Dated: September 24, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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